



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA Fisheries to hold workshops on Puget Sound steelhead hatcheries

NOAA Fisheries has scheduled two public workshops next week to discuss development of an upcoming draft environmental impact statement that will examine five early winter steelhead hatchery programs in Puget Sound. The draft EIS will analyze the effects of five proposed Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans that guide early winter steelhead hatchery programs in the Dungeness, Nooksack, Stillaguamish, Skykomish and Snoqualmie watersheds.

The dates, times and locations of the workshops are:

Monday, July 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Skagit Public Utility District
Aqua Room
1415 Freeway Drive
Mt. Vernon, WA

Tuesday, July 21, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Lynnwood Convention Center
Room 2BC
3711 196th St., S.W.
Lynnwood, WA

At the workshops NOAA Fisheries representatives will describe the proposed steelhead programs, explain the EIS process and answer questions. NOAA Fisheries announced its intention to prepare a draft EIS in a [Federal Register notice](#) July 14. The draft EIS extends the analysis of three early winter steelhead hatchery program that were evaluated in an earlier draft environmental assessment.

At this time, NOAA Fisheries is seeking input on the scope of the analysis, including the range of reasonable alternatives, recommendations for methods of analysis and information on the impacts of the alternatives. Those attending the workshops may submit comments on the proposed scope of the draft EIS by leaving them at the workshops, submitting them by email to

EWShatcheriesEIS.wcr@noaa.gov; faxing them to 360-753-9517; or mailing or hand-delivering them to NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, 510 Desmond Dr. S.E., Suite 103, Lacey, WA, 98503.

For further information on the project, the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans for the steelhead hatchery programs under review, and to see documents produced so far, go to:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/hatcheries/salmon_and_steelhead_hatcheries.html